Investment in farm infrastructure

5127. SHRI K.NATWAR SINGH:

DR. T. SUBB ARAMIREDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to formulate and unfold guidelines for incentives that would be provided to induce corporate and big companies for farm infrastructure;

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to extend facilities to big companies to invest in farm infrastructure, processing, packaging, storage, R&D and agricultural extension to enable them to become producers instead of being traders and processors;

(c) if so, the details or the guidelines prepared; and

(d) the details of the project that would be undertaken by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIHUKUMDEO NARAYAN YAD AV): (a) to (d) Taking into account various factors that limit agricultural productivity, quality of produce etc. such as inadequate investments in the sector, the Government contemplates facilitating and promoting association of corporates in the implementation of agri-export zones (AEZ). For this purpose, appropriate incentives may be provided, subject to their feasibility.

WTO farm draft

5128. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the WTO farm draft has neither been welcomed nor opposed by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry;

(b) if so, whether they have pointed out that it is inadequate and may not go far enough in liberalizing the distorted agriculture trade;

(c) whether the revised draft in its current form does not reflect completely the spirit of Doha Declaration for reforming the distorted agriculture trade;

(d) if so, what are the drawbacks; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YAD AV): (a) and (b) Yes S ir.

(c) and (d) In the Doha declaration Ministers agreed to negotiation on agriculture aimed at substantial improvement in market access; reduction of,